

Dear Friends:

In the wake of our national tragedy, people both at home and around the country have spoken with one voice for tolerance and respect.

While many of us feel confused and angry about the September 11 attack, our commitment to civil rights remains unchallenged. We remember that our country was founded on ethnic and religious freedom for everyone. We know that our strength lies in unity, harmony and a strong commitment to human and civil rights.

On behalf of the city, I ask each of us to extend our hand to everyone in friendship, trust, and understanding. Muslim and Arab citizens also died in New York and Washington on September 11. We are all victims of this tragedy. Let us remember that now more than ever: *United we stand, divided we fall.*

Racial and religious hate crimes not only run contrary to our core beliefs — they are also illegal. If you or someone you know experiences assault or vandalism because of your race or religion, call 911 to report A HATE CRIME. For more information about civil rights and discrimination, contact the Seattle Office for Civil Rights at (206) 684-4507.

Many people also have asked how they can help the people of New York and Washington at this time. Here is a partial list of organizations assisting the victims of Tuesday's terrorist attack and their families:

To donate blood, please call the American Red Cross at 1-800-448-3543.

To make a financial donation, please call:

Red Cross: 1-800-HELP-NOW
United Way: 1-212-251-4035
Salvation Army: 1-800-SAL-Army

New York State Donations Hot Line: 1-800-801-8092

State of Virginia Terrorism Victims Help Line: 1-866-827-3543

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief: 1-800-959-4325 Church World Service: 1-800-297-1516 #222 Nazarene Disaster Response: 1-888-256-5886

Very truly yours.

Paul Schell